



ETON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Eton Community Association Meeting.

On Wednesday, 9th September 2026
at The Hop House, The George, Eton

Attendees:

Ros Rivaz, Leonie Bryant, Sylvia Ellis, Linda Tarbox, Deb Martin, Bryn Lee, Dawn Lee, Anthony Cove, David Palmieri, Dawn Palmieri, Teresa Read, Ian Read, Christine Barber, Julia Gosnell, Stephen Gosnell, Kim Carpenter, Simon Carpenter, Kathleen Hanna, John Hunt, Tex Warnes, Peter Eaton, Bridget Bartlett, Wendy Sleight (Eton College), Adrian Greensmith (Great Park Home Care), Hugo Snell, Amanda Snell, Hennie van Jaarsveld, Annelie van Jaarsveld, Jackie Haines.

Apologies:

Malcolm Leach, Katie Leach, Barbara France, Elizabeth McMahon, Hardip Viridi, Maggie Waller, Stuart Rogers, Katherine Rogers, Shirley Young, Kate Blightman, Mike Blightman, Chris Spence, Sandrine Cocks.

1) Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone and said that the meeting would be recorded for minute-taking. Wendy Sleight from Eton College and Adrian Greensmith from Great Park Home Care were welcomed as visiting speakers.

Apologies were received from the members listed above

2) Minutes and Matters Arising

I. Anti-Social Behaviour

Attendees were reminded to report incidents through channels. Repeated reports provide the evidence required to support enforcement and requests for additional resources.

II. Brocas Signage

Eton College have agreed to improved signage, but the signs have not yet been received.

Action: Linda to follow up the outstanding Brocas signage with Eton College.

III. Roads and Potholes

Resurfacing the Slough Road approach was welcomed. Attendees note that the new white lines and cycle-lane markings appeared incomplete, with a missing or unclear directional arrow.

Action: RR/Peter Eaton to raise the Slough Road white-line and cycle-lane marking issues with the relevant authority.

IV. Eton Court Closure

Members were reminded that Eton Court was due to close from 10.00 pm on Thursday, 10th September until 5.00 am on Friday, 11th September. Notices had been placed on the ECA and Town Council websites and were due to appear in Shout Out.

V. Visitor Signage

RBWM have said that it has no budget to update signs that still point to the former Windsor Information Centre and omit the Eton Information Centre. Attendees discussed whether a low-cost cover, repainting or sticker could correct the obsolete wording.

Action: BL and ECA to explore low-cost options for the obsolete visitor signage.

VI. The Cockpit

Four planning conditions have been released. Rendering has begun.

VII. EV Charging

The previously requested EV charging-plan link had been attached to the July minutes. No further action was requested.

VIII. Trunks Across the Thames

Information on following the trail without buying a map has been shared. Map proceeds support Thames Hospice, and Shout Out would publicise other ways to support the hospice.

IX. RBWM Lotto

The October Superdraw remains open. Eton Town Council are preparing a fundraising display and QR code. ECA will coordinate this publicity with the separate Christmas-event donation appeal.

Action: RR/Linda Tarbox to coordinate later Shout Out publicity for the RBWM Lotto Superdraw after the initial Christmas donation appeal.

X. Pub Walk

No new walk route has been proposed yet. Attendees welcome to suggest options, including shorter walks.

XI. Autumn Litter Pick

The proposed date was amended to Sunday, 11th October, subject to College confirmation

Action: LB to confirm the Sunday, 11th October litter pick with the College and arrange publicity.

XII. Quiz

No current planned date - SR to organise – potentially November.

XIII. Christmas Dinner

The Christopher Wren is a possible venue. Details and dates needed to be resolved.

Action: RR, LB, BL to resolve venue details and circulate possible December dates.

XIV. Parking Outside Popeye's Barber

Inconsiderate parking continues with the car being moved when parking attendants appear. Attendees to continue photographing and reporting any obstruction or loading impacts.

XV. Eton Matters

Residents should advise ECA if their copy of Eton Matters has not arrived so that delivery gaps can be investigated.

3) Chair's Report

I. Crown Farm

RBWM is pursuing enforcement where possible, although legal action could be expensive. Linda said residents have requested a meeting with RBWM Planning Enforcement Officer, Daniel Lewis, the local councillors and MP Jack Rankin, and had asked why lower-cost enforcement approaches used elsewhere could not be considered. Residents continued to report long working hours, bonfires and heavy machinery.

Action: Linda Tarbox and the residents' group to pursue the requested Crown Farm enforcement meeting and update ECA.

II. Community Wellbeing Event

ECA have agreed to a stall at the wellbeing event in Dedworth on 19th September. Set-up at 9.30 am to run until approximately 4.00 pm. Additional help wanted.

Action: RR and volunteers to confirm the rota and ECA material.

III. Community Volunteering

Locals are asked for help with small practical tasks as well as major events. Examples included collecting wreaths and dealing with overflowing recycling bins, potentially using RBWM's online reporting service.

IV. Forward Communications

Dates for forthcoming ECA meetings will be in Shout Out. An ECA evening linked to the College photography exhibition is planned for 26th January, with details to follow.

V. Community Events

The Eton Action Fair and the inclusive Trunks Across the Thames gathering at Windsor Racecourse will both take place on 26th September.

VI. Eton Arts Week

The event has achieved its principal community, artist-promotion, training and footfall objectives. The provisional surplus was reported as between £1,000 and £2,000. Weekends were busy, while extreme heat reduced weekday activity.

4) Treasurer's Report

In the Treasurer's absence, BL reported that there had been little financial movement since the previous meeting. Sponsorship income connected with the latest Eton Matters was expected, while the main forthcoming expenditure related to the Christmas lights and switch-on event.

5) Thames Valley Police Update

I. Police Report

No Thames Valley Police representative was available because of other commitments, and no separate crime report was given.

II. Joint Safety Meeting

A joint discussion with Eton College, Thames Valley Police and RBWM anti-social behaviour officers is scheduled for 28th January to consider coordinated policing and safety arrangements for the Brocas, High Street and wider town.

6) RBWM Councillor Matters

I. Apologies and Parking

The ward councillors were attending a Council meeting and sent apologies. Members asked that the unresolved on-street parking-price issue be followed up, noting the material reduction in parking use.

Action: BL to take the parking-charge concern and supporting usage data back to the ward councillors.

II. Parking Use

RBWM data shows lower use of parking compared to 3 years ago, probably because of increased cost of street parking and the extension of charging into the evening.

III. Footfall

July footfall was 28 per cent below the March 2026 figure though broadly at July 2023 levels. May 2026 was lower than May 2025 but similar to 2023.

Action: BL to send the parking and footfall data to Ros and follow up the on-street parking charge issue with the borough councillors Ros to use the information in Shout Out when space permits.

IV. Slough Road Markings

Members also asked that the incomplete Slough Road white lines be raised, as recorded under Matters Arising.

7) Business Update

I. Great Park Home Care

Adrian Greensmith explained that the company has operated for 11 years. It provides flexible paid support, ranging from companionship, transport to appointments through to end-of-life care. Staff can accompany clients into appointments with permission, record information for families and provide practical shopping support

Action: ECA and the Eton Information Centre to make local residents and staff aware of the service.

II. Gilbey's

The business has a buyer. No information yet about the new owner's intended use.

III. Cappadocia

A planning application for additional rooms is expected to be determined shortly.

IV. Eton Pantry

The former Eton Pantry premises will become Dizzy Whips, operated by Aaron and Jess alongside their existing catering activity.

V. Other Premises

- The private dentist is close to opening.
- The Box Sash Window premises are expected to become a Pilates studio.
- Barker Stone has completed its internal works and now waiting for College for exterior works.
- Possible movement at Willow was reported but unconfirmed.

Action: David Palmieri to seek an update on the proposed Pilates studio. RR/BL to verify any substantive update concerning Willow before publication.

8) Eton College Update

I. Lockdown Drill

Wendy Sleight, Eton College Director of Communications, explained that the College runs an annual lockdown drill, normally in the second or third week of September. The siren may be heard widely and can be alarming to residents. The community WhatsApp group will quickly confirm whether an alarm is a drill or a real incident. Existing group members remain enrolled, although the group may appear archived on their phones.

II. Community Guidance

If an alarm continues or is not confirmed as a drill, members of the public should take it seriously. The advice is run, hide, tell: leave the street, enter the nearest suitable building, move away from windows and wait for authoritative information or the all-clear. Local schools would receive advance liaison so they could prepare appropriately.

III. WhatsApp Use

The Chair and Wendy confirmed that the group was used only for lockdown-drill and emergency information. A joining link and explanation were due in Shout Out on 10th September.

Action: ECA to promote the College community WhatsApp group and the run, hide, tell guidance through Shout Out and local business contacts.

IV. College Funding

Despite budget pressure, the College continues to contribute £5,000 to the Christmas event and £5,000 annually to the Eton Information Centre.

V. Barnes Pool Greenery

RR and Peter Eaton are to meet the College to discuss the west side of Barnes Pool.

Action: RR and Peter Eaton to meet the College and report the agreed next steps.

VI. Joint Safety Meeting

A multi-agency meeting is scheduled for 28th January with Eton College, Thames Valley Police, RBWM anti-social behaviour officers, RR and Linda Tarbox. It will consider how to reduce anti-social behaviour and coordinate safety work across the town.

Action: RR and Linda Tarbox to prepare ECA's priorities and evidence for the 28th January meeting.

9) Eton Town Council Update

I. Weddings and Suppliers

A local wedding-suppliers coffee morning is planned for the second Wednesday in October. Wedding income is currently contributing towards Christmas-lights costs.

II. Tinkers Lane and Public Realm

Councillors had visited Tinkers Lane. A temporary item outside the Henry VI was expected to be removed shortly. Further detail will be obtained from the councillor who attended.

III. Staffing

Roberta has joined as the new cleaner, also a new accountant has started.

IV. CCTV

The outstanding issue concerning the camera arm remained with the installing company and had not yet been resolved.

Action: Eton Town Council to continue pursuing the CCTV installer until the camera-arm issue is resolved.

V. Wellbeing Hub

The Town Council website contains details of the wellbeing hub linked to the 19th September event.

10) Eton Information Centre Update

Staffing

The Information Centre continues to operate well. Courtney has joined, adding cover alongside her existing College roles at the Natural History Museum and Porters' Lodge.

Equipment

Grant funding has paid for a new till, simplifying day-to-day administration. Funding has also been obtained for an air-conditioning unit.

Funding and Information

The Centre continued to rely on a combination of grants, shop sales and fundraising activities.

Action: The EIC team to ensure all staff, including Courtney, have information about Great Park Home Care for residents who may enquire about support.

11) Events Update

I. Christmas Event

The switch-on will be on Thursday, 12th November. ECA is now responsible for organising and funding the event because previous funding has stopped. Eton Town Council owns the lights and associated assets, while ECA meets the cost of installation, removal, traffic management, parking suspension, stage, communications, first aid and other delivery costs.

II. Budget and Fundraising

The total event cost is estimated at £15,000. Eton College, Baldwin's Bridge Trust and Eton Town Council have indicated that they will contribute but there is still a massive financial gap. Attendees are asked to contribute if they can. RR will approach shops during the week beginning 21st September.

Action: RR and the Christmas team to issue the donation appeal, follow up residents and businesses, and maintain a current event budget and contribution schedule.

III. Artwork and Tickets

Members admired the new posters and chapel-ticket artwork prepared by Chris Spence. The requested chapel donation will rise to £5, the first increase since 2017. Special local arrangements will help eligible families at local schools.

IV. Charity

Alexander Devine Children's Hospice will again be the supported charity.

V. Volunteers

The event team needs approximately 10 to 12 people for the Father Christmas procession and might require additional Rotary support. RBWM Ambassadors will be approached, and further volunteers are needed inside the chapel to meet College safety and security requirements. Hugo Snell has volunteered for 11th November poop removal and CB for the chapel door.

Action: SS, RR and David Palmieri to recruit and record volunteers for the procession, chapel and general event roles, and to approach RBWM Ambassadors.

VI. Remembrance

The reusable wreaths are being cleaned. ECA and participating groups will donate to the Royal British Legion rather than purchase new wreaths. Poppies must be removed promptly after Remembrance Day so that the town is ready for the Christmas event on 12th November.

Action: RR and volunteers to confirm a team to remove the poppies before Christmas switch-on preparations begin.

VII. Other Events

The provisional litter-pick date is 11th October. A November quiz awaits confirmation from SR. Informal drinks on 1st September attracted approximately 12 people, and the next date will be arranged. The ECA Christmas dinner venue and date are under discussion.

Action: RR/LB to confirm the next informal-drinks date and whether a November quiz can proceed.

12) Any Other Business

I. Eton Matters

Deb Martin will provide additional support to the Eton Matters team. Members thanked Sylvia, Deb and the wider team for their work.

Action: Eton Matters team to agree how Deb Martin can support forthcoming editions.

II. Future Agendas

Future agendas will be published on the ECA website rather than printed for every meeting.

III. Next Meeting

The next ECA community meeting will be on Wednesday, 21st October 2026. Members are reminded to send proposed Any Other Business items to the secretary in advance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 21st October 2026.